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IWY TRIBUNE 1975 — NON-GOVERNMENTAL FORUM
WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

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A PROPOSAL FOR INVESTIGATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES
RELATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR TRIBUNE AND IWY OBJECTIVES

The 6,000 women from approximately 100 countries who attended the non-governmental Tribune of International Women's Year during the United Nations World Conference of IWY were not encouraged to report subsequently, as the Tribune Organizing Committee had not included any follow-up activities in its program or budget. The Committee chairman noted in her closing remarks at the Tribune that the record of the two weeks was in the participants' hands in the form of ten issues of the daily newspaper, XILONEN. She emphasized that the many leaders present who had served as sources of information and stimulation could be expected to translate the Tribune experience into long-range efforts on behalf of the goals of IWY.

Despite this lack of encouragement, a number of reports and requests for assistance have come into the office of the Conference of NGOs from the Tribune participants. The requests, from all areas of the world, include: information on the decisions and programs of international bodies, establishment of links among Tribune participants, identification of resource persons, consultation on development projects. Correspondents have insisted that the momentum for increased participation of women in development generated by the Tribune should not be permitted to deteriorate.

NGO representatives at the UN, IWY Secretariat members and development specialists in private organizations and individuals from developing countries who have come through New York since the Mexico meetings confirm that follow-up is essential to provide a continuing interest in women's issues, that IWY-related activity continues and that further contact with persons and organizations Tribune participants became aware of in Mexico is desirable.

It is clear from these consultations that effective response to the requests should be based on a more systematic survey of projects and programs than is available from the current correspondence. There is a variety of forms of assistance that might be most appropriate to increase the effectiveness of these efforts, including technical assistance, funding, cooperative ventures and encouragement. The Conference of NGOs has the background material and files of the Tribune which would be the springboard of a survey.

ROSALIND W. HARRIS, President, *Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council*
MILDRED E. PERSINGER, Chairman, *IWY Tribune Organizing Committee*

This is a proposal, therefore, for support for staff services and necessary travel to conduct an investigation of post-IYW Tribune activity in developing countries which would include links to international organizations with affiliates in both developing and developed countries. An effort would be made to assess the level of indigenous involvement and local support for such activity and its potential effect on social policy.

The project would be a special project for the Conference of NGOs under the general direction of Mildred Persinger, who chaired the Tribune Organizing Committee. It would be administered by a small professional staff in the New York office of the Conference of NGOs, assisted by competent volunteers.

As the survey progresses, it is anticipated that it would be necessary to consult with small groups of experienced colleagues in various regions. A nucleus of such a group, led by Asian women, was formed at the Tribune. Efforts would be made to respond to requests for information or material and to put people in touch with resources they request.